Protection of temple of Someshwara Mahadev

†1898. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that an ancient Someshwara Mahadev temple situated on a mountain 20 km. away from Chitrakoot district in Uttar Pradesh, is in dilapidated condition and most of its precious idols are being stolen;

(b) whether the Archaeological Department would take this ancient temple of Shiva in its protection; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CUTLURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Someshwara Mahadev temple in Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh is not under Central protection.

(b) and (c) The Archaeological Survey of India has no such proposal under consideration.

Cultural Resource Survey

1899. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is losing out on the possibility of excavating a large number of archaeological sites because of growing population and development activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any archaeological sites are buried under construction and cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a cultural Resource Survey is conducted with the help of an archaeologist before taking up any development project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) In the absence of any provision in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959, that makes it mandatory to conduct a prior survey of cultural resources, presently no such survey is required to be carried out at the time of taking up development projects and activities. Since records in respect of potential archaeological sites are not maintained, it is not possible to provide information regarding sites that may be buried under construction/cultivation.

Conservation of monuments in Orissa

1900. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa for financial assistance for the conservation of historical monuments, cultural value locations related to culture of Orissa during last three years;

(b) if so, the details of proposal, location-wise;

(c) the estimated cost of each project; and

(d) whether any progress has been made in this regard, so far?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) No proposal for conservation of historical monuments or an cultural value to location has been received in the Archaeological Survey of India. However, the Government had received proposals from State Government of Orissa for financial assistance for establishment of Memorial Museum of eminent Freedom Fighters of Orissa, which include:

1. National Memorial on Utkalmani Gopabandu Das, Sakhigopal, Puri.
2. National Museum of Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das, Cuttack.
3. Memorial on Bagha Jain, Balasore.
4. Biju Patnaik Birth Place Museum & Library, Cuttack.
5. Memorial Museum at Khinda, (Sambalpur Distt.)
6. Memorial Museum at Ghens (Bargarh Distt.)
7. Memorial Museum at Simco (Sundargarh Distt.)

Government of India has constituted a National Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister for Human Resource Development to chalk out the programmes/ activities in commemoration of 150th Anniversary of First War of Independence 1857 and other related events. The Committee has taken a view that the State Government take up these projects from their own resources.

ATMs installed by PSU banks

1901. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) installed by public sector banks in the country, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of ATMs in metropolitan cities, semi-urban and rural area-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of ATMs in semi-urban and rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) installed by public sector banks as on 31.12.2007 in the country, State-wise is given in the Statement-I (*See* below)

(b) The break-up of ATMs installed by public sector banks along with their percentage in metro cities, semi-urban and rural areas is given in the statement-II. (*See* below)

(c) to (e) Under the extant Branch Aurhtorisation Policy, banks are encouraged to open branches/install ATMs in rural centres and underbanked districts. The policy has a distinct thrust for making available increased banking facilities in semi-urban and rural areas. RBI gives weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons, particularly in underbanked areas (districts). The choice of the centre/ location of the branch/ATM is left to the discretion of the banks which the bank decide based on the business potential, commercial viability, availability of infrastructure, etc.